

(b) The objective of the Regional Environmental Communication Centre is to build greater awareness among the governments and the people of the region the need for better protection of environment and implementation of environmentally sound and sustainable policies, through their daily environmental news service, to be circulated over the Asia-Pacific news net work

(c) Yes, Sir The proposal has been cleared by the Ministry of Environment & Forests

(d) Communication giving clearance was sent to the General Manager, PTI on 13th January, 1992

(e) Question does not arise

#### **National Testing services**

5434 SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to set up national testing services to hold tests for enrolment of students in colleges and universities,

(b) if so, the details thereof and the main features thereof,

(c) whether such agency would determine the eligibility of candidates for jobs delinking it from degree or diploma, and

(d) the details of allocation of duties to be entrusted with financial implications?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) (a) to (d) The National Policy on Education — 1986 envisages that a beginning will be made in delinking degrees from jobs in those selected areas where a university degree need not be a necessary quali-

cation. It also envisages establishment of a National Testing Service, in appropriate phases, to conduct tests on a voluntary basis to determine the suitability of candidates for specified jobs

In pursuance of this, Government has recently registered the National Evaluation Organisation (NEO) as an autonomous body with the following main objects —

- To conduct tests for certifying the suitability of candidates irrespective of their formal qualifications for specified jobs
- To develop methodologies and techniques for testing knowledge, proficiency abilities, skills, competence and aptitude necessary for the performance of specified jobs
- To assist existing institutions and agencies which are conducting different tests by holding preliminary screening or similar other tests on their behalf, for the purpose of admissions to courses of higher studies, faculty recruitment, recruitment of scientists, specialists, etc

To function as a well-equipped resources centre at the national level in test development

A provision of Rs 25 lakhs has been proposed for the Organisation in the 1992-93 Budget

#### **Maintenance of Qutab Minar**

5435 SHRI JANGBIR SINGH  
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether the Qutab Minar is in danger